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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Troops at Cegléd

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. There is a Hungarian replacement command in the building of the Herrenkasino at Teleki Gasse 20.
2. In the tower of the old Reformed Protestant Church there is an air observation station with six military personnel on duty. The station is under the Kerleköz Central at Kiskunhalas.
3. The armored barracks on Törteli Street was built and occupied in 1950. It has a capacity of 2,000 and is now occupied by an armored regiment. The regiment consists of regimental troops and two battalions. Strength 900 to 960 men, with 55 to 60 T-34 tanks. The men have blue shoulder boards. The auto park consists of three tank cars, 7 radio cars, 1 ambulance, 7 tank recovery vehicles, 10 to 12 jeeps, 12 to 15 Csepel motorcycles without sidecars, 7 motorcycles with sidecars, 5 Tatra personnel carriers, 17 to 19 trucks, mostly Csepel Diesels.
4. Active soldiers are trained in the regiment under the leadership of Soviet technical officers. Instruction is basic and very hard. The soldiers are required to start motors and load guns while blindfolded. The regiment rarely trains with heavy equipment. Mostly they march out on foot and undertake infantry exercises.
5. At the end of April 1953, the regiment marched out to undertake battle exercises along the Cegléd-Abony road. It was divided into small units practicing attack on hostile parachutists who were supposed to have landed in the area. All equipment was heavily camouflaged. In May the regiment proceeded to field exercises, leaving the staff behind. New recruits were brought in to bring the regiment up to war strength.
6. Four private houses were taken over by the Hungarian Army on Rákóczi and Teleki Streets. They have been occupied by a motorized communications battalion, which has erected six-meter high antennae on the roofs. Radio cars have been observed in the courtyard of the building at Teleki Street 24. The unit is engaged in training, and rooms in the houses have been made into schoolrooms.

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NODEX

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